



Chapter two **2**

Steps to a Valid NJ Driver License

New Jersey law requires all applicants for any license to have their eyesight checked through a vision test given by a doctor or administered at an MVC agency. MVC may refer applicants with impaired vision to a physician.

All applicants for the basic driver license must pass a knowledge test of traffic laws, rules and regulations, by scoring at least 80 percent on a 50-question test. The answer to every question on MVC's knowledge test can be found in this manual.

MVC can administer the knowledge test in English and the following foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Applicants who do not read in any language may have an oral exam conducted in English or Spanish. For the hearing impaired and for others who are unable to take an oral exam, MVC-approved interpreters are allowed.

Test Requirements	
Screening Tests	Minimum Requirements
Eyesight Basic license applicants:	20/50 vision with or without glasses or corrective contact lenses. For sight in one eye, that eye must meet the 20/50 criteria.
Eyesight CDL license applicants:	20/40 vision with or without glasses or corrective contact lenses in both eyes. Must have 70 degrees of peripheral vision in each eye, and must distinguish among red, green and amber lights.
Knowledge	80 percent, or correctly answering 40 of the 50 test questions.
Health	Inform examiner of health problems. Under federal law, commercial drivers must carry a medical examiner's fitness statement and have it renewed every two years.

Interpreters

An MVC-approved foreign language interpreter must meet the criteria below:

- a full-time faculty member of a United States college or university who displays a current identification card issued by that college or university, or
- a priest, minister, rabbi or other religious leader of a recognized organization who displays credentials that show association with the organization, or
- an individual with an interpreter identification card issued by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Language Services.

An MVC-approved Department of State interpreter for the hearing impaired must meet the criteria below:

- an interpreter certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and listed with the New Jersey Division of the Deaf, or
- an interpreter who has been evaluated by the Division of the Deaf and is on the approved list of that division's interpreters.

MVC will pay the interpreter's fee for hearing impaired applicants.

Vision Recheck

Periodically, MVC may require a vision recheck of New Jersey drivers during the driver license renewal process.

Health Questions

Periodically, MVC may require a health review. Discuss any health issues that may impede safe driving with the MVC examiner.

Health Restrictions

When necessary, MVC will put restrictions in number code on a permit or a driver license.

These include:

- corrective lenses required = 1
- prosthetic device = 2
- mechanical device = 3
- hearing impaired = 4
- attached restrictions = 5

Attached restrictions apply to special modifications to a vehicle or limited driving/driver privileges because of a medical condition.

Road Tests

After an applicant passes MVC's knowledge test, MVC will validate the driver's permit, which allows the driver to practice. When arriving at an MVC driver testing facility for the road test, all applicants must provide a vehicle with a valid inspection sticker, a current registration document for that vehicle, a current insurance card for that vehicle, a valid examination permit, and an accompanying driver, who must be licensed to operate the vehicle.

Road test appointments can be made online at www.njmvc.gov.

Vehicles covered by P.U.C. or federal DOT regulations are exempt from the valid insurance card requirement.

The licensed driver must remain in the vehicle with the applicant at all times. Applicants are prohibited from moving the vehicle, even in the road test lane, without the licensed driver.

MVC does not supply vehicles for road tests. Vehicles registered out-of-state must comply with that state's insurance law regarding identification.

An examiner will accompany the applicant during the MVC road test, which is administered on both an off-road area and on a public road course. The purpose of the road test is for the driver to demonstrate an understanding of the rules of the road and safe driving. Both standard and manual transmission vehicles may be used to take the road test.

Applicants may be tested on the following:

- driving in reverse
- stopping at signs
- following other vehicles
- stopping on downgrades and upgrades
- nearing corners and intersections
- stopping smoothly
- parallel and other parking
- turning
- sitting properly
- using the horn
- starting a vehicle
- yielding the right-of-way
- steering properly

After passing the road test, the examiner will process the examination permit for licensing. Then, the applicant should take the permit and authorization form to a motor vehicle agency to obtain a driver license. MVC will license all successful applicants for a basic driver license or class E motorcycle license as provisional drivers if the applicant never was licensed to drive a motor vehicle in New Jersey or another state.

After failing the road test, all applicants must wait at least two weeks before retaking the test. Reschedule the test in person, at any driver testing facility or at www.njmvc.gov, MVC’s Web site. Repeated failures may require MVC to require the applicant to wait six months before retaking the road test.

Reasons for Failure of Road Test

Applicants fail the road test for many reasons. Driving ability is not the sole criteria on which road tests are graded. A vehicle can cause a failure if it is considered unsafe or unsuitable for a road test.

Applicants may also fail the road test for having an improper, expired, or no inspection sticker. If a vehicle has failed inspection, the driver should bring the “extension” card issued by the inspection station to the road test area. Equipment in the vehicle in a position that prevents the examiner from reaching the foot or parking brakes will also cause a failure.

Any defect or condition that affects the safe operation of the vehicle, including poor brakes, defective parking brake, unsafe tires, unreasonably unclean vehicle interior, a fast engine idle, or missing seatbelts, can result in a failure of the road test.

(Seat belts are required for all vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1966.)

Reasons for Failure of Motorcycle and Moped Road Tests

In addition to the reasons that will cause a failure of the passenger vehicle road test, the following could cause an applicant to fail a motorcycle or moped road test:

- lack of equipment required by state regulations
- no helmet
- unapproved goggles or face shield
- horn that can not be heard from at least 100 feet.

Study Questions

- 1

What three items is every motorist required to have while driving?
- 2

How old does a person have to be to obtain a basic driver license?
- 3

When should a motorist notify MVC after
a) an address change b) a name change?
- 4

How long does a new state resident have to transfer a driver license?
- 5

What tests are applicants required to pass to get an examination permit validated?

- ANSWERS
1. A valid learner permit, examination permit, provisional license or basic license; current vehicle registration; and, valid vehicle insurance card.
2. 18
3. One week and two weeks, respectively
4. 60 days or until out-of-state license expires, whichever ever is first; for a CDL, 30 days.
5. Eyesight and knowledge

• These study questions, or question similar to these study questions, may or may not be on the actual MVC knowledge test.